

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 474**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Stone**

February 19, 2013

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An act to amend Section 16516.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 474, as introduced, Stone. Child welfare services.

Existing law requires that all foster children placed in group homes by county welfare departments or county probation departments be visited at least monthly by a county social worker or probation officer, and specifies the funding sources for these monthly visits.

This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to that funding provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 16516.5 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 16516.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or
- 4 regulation, all foster children placed in group homes by county
- 5 welfare departments or county probation departments shall be
- 6 visited at least monthly by a county social worker or probation
- 7 officer. Each visit shall include a private discussion between the
- 8 foster child and the county social worker or probation officer. The
- 9 discussion shall not be held in the presence or immediate vicinity

1 of the group home staff. The contents of the private discussion  
2 shall not be disclosed to the group home staff, except that the social  
3 worker or probation officer may disclose information under any  
4 of the following circumstances:

5 (1) The social worker or probation officer believes that the foster  
6 child may be in danger of harming himself or herself, or others.

7 (2) The social worker or probation officer believes that  
8 disclosure is necessary to meet the needs of the child.

9 (3) The child consents to disclosure of the information.

10 (b) (1) ~~Prior to~~ *Before* the 2011–12 fiscal year, notwithstanding  
11 Section 10101, the state shall pay 100 percent of the nonfederal  
12 costs associated with the monthly visitation requirement in  
13 subdivision (a) in excess of the minimum semiannual visits  
14 required under current regulations.

15 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), beginning in the 2011–12  
16 fiscal year, and for each fiscal year thereafter, funding and  
17 expenditures for programs and activities under this section shall  
18 be in accordance with the requirements provided in Sections 30025  
19 and 30026.5 of the Government Code.